

Serial No. 10/523,844
67222-001**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Engdahl et al. (2001/0039168). Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. The Examiner asserts that independent claims 1 and 6 are limited by methodical features, although these claims are device claims. The functional features of "load cell," "load control device," "interval adjustment mechanism" and "rotation drive" of the wafer rotating device are clarified in the currently amended independent claims 1 and 6.

Engdahl et al. does not disclose a wafer rotating device including a rotation drive mechanism that rotates and drives at least one roller to rotate a wafer without making any contact with a top surface and a bottom surface of the wafer as claimed. Engdahl et al. discloses semiconductor wafers each held by a different head assembly 52 when proceeding along a process path defined by an index plate. Each head assembly 52 holds one wafer. The head assembly 52 retains the wafer against the wafer receiving plate 54 within the boundary defined by a retaining ring 56 that surrounds, and extends beyond, the plane of the wafer receiving plate 54. A plurality of perforations, or fluid conduits 58, are distributed around the wafer receiving plate 54. The fluid conduits 58 assist the head assembly 52 in retaining the wafer either through surface tension or a partial vacuum created between the wafer and receiving plate 54. Therefore, the wafer receiving plate 54 contacts either the top or the bottom of the wafer during processing. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

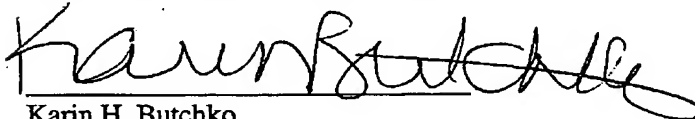
These features are not disclosed or suggested by Engdahl et al. Accordingly, the claimed invention is allowable because the above-mentioned technical features are not disclosed or suggested by Engdahl et al., resulting in technical advantageous effects.

Thus, claims 1 and 3-6 are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. \$620.00 for a two-month extension fee (\$225.00) and a RCE fee (\$395.00) (small entity). No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this RCE Amendment is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on October 18, 2006.


Amy M. Spaulding